

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9, 11, and 18 are canceled. Claims 7, 10, 13, 16, 23, and 26 are currently amended.

Claims 1-6 are rejected for being directed to subject matter which is statutorily unpatentable. These claims are canceled and the rejection is therefore moot.

Claims 7-10, 13-16, 18-26, and 28-30 are rejected for anticipation by US patent 4601045. The rejection is moot with respect to claims 9 and 18, which are canceled. Claims 7, 13, 16, 23, and 26 are currently amended by incorporation of limitations from canceled claims 9 and 11, which are not found in US patent 4601045. Claims 7, 8, 10, 13-16, 19-26, and 28-30 are therefore not anticipated by US patent 4601045.

Claims 12, 17, and 27 are rejected for obviousness over US patent 4601045 in view of US patent 6931009. These claims inherit the limitations added by amendment of claims 7, 16, and 26, respectively, which are not found in the combination of US patents 4601045 and 6931009. Claims 12, 17, and 27 are therefore not obvious over US patent 4601045 in view of US patent 6931009.

The examiner has indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if amended to independent form by incorporation of its rejected base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 has been amended by incorporation of the limitations of claims 9 and 11 and now corresponds to claim 11 in allowable form. Claim 7 is therefore allowable, as are claims 8, 10, and 12, which depend from claim 7. Claims 13, 16, 23, and 26 have been amended by incorporation of the limitations of claims 9 and 11 and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 7, as are their dependent claims.

Thus, all claims remaining in this application are in allowable form, early notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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